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#23

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No. 09/118,730
Filed: July 17, 1998
Inventors: Ellington M. Beavers et al
Title: METHOD OF MAKING FREE ACIDS
FROM POLYSACCHARIDE SALTS
Examiner: E. White
Art Unit: 1623
File No.: 281-28

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JUN 24 2004

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit this Amendment in response to the Official Action of January 22, 2004. A Petition for Extension of Time, and payment of \$506.00, are attached.

Please note that Applicants have withdrawn the claim of small entity status in this application. A Request for Correction of Entity Status is being filed together with this Amendment.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Attached are:

- 1) Amendments to the Claims; and
- 2) Remarks in support of patentability.

After entry of this Amendment, the application contains four (4) independent claims and eleven (11) total claims. The fee for the additional independent claim is \$86.00. This fee is included in the attached payment.

For the reasons given in the attached Remarks, Applicants request reconsideration by the Examiner, and early favorable action. If the Examiner has questions, Applicants request that he telephone the undersigned to expedite the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney for Applicants

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE
IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES
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22313-1450, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

BY.....*William H. Eilberg*.....

DATE.....*6/15/04*.....